

REACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Community Group Discussion Guide

Series: Re-Actions Speak Louder

Week 1: Cause and Defect

Intro

We kicked off a new series this week about something we all struggle with: our reactions. Whether it's a rude comment, an unexpected frustration, or a deep hurt, our reactions often say more about us than our actions. In Matthew 5, Jesus gives his followers a radically different way to respond — one that reflects the nature of our Heavenly Father. Let's dive in and talk about how our reactions can become a window into God's grace.

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 5:43–45.

What does Jesus say is the outcome of loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us?

What does it mean that “you may be children of your Father in heaven”? How does that shape the why behind our reactions?

2. Think about a recent time when you felt justified in a negative reaction.

Looking back, what did your reaction reveal about what was going on in your heart? Can you see any missed opportunities in that moment to reflect God's grace?

3. Read Romans 12:17–21.

Paul challenges us not to repay evil for evil. Why is it so difficult to live this out — especially when we're genuinely hurt?

What would it look like to “overcome evil with good” in a situation you're facing right now?

4. “The strength of your cause does not justify the weakness of your reaction.”

Have you ever been “over-right” — so focused on being correct that you missed the opportunity to respond like Christ?

Why do you think being right sometimes feels more important than being Christlike?

5. Stories of unexpected grace:

— A friend who decided to always keep the family cars full of gas.

— A pastor who responded to being mistreated by writing a check.

What stood out to you about those stories? How does that kind of grace challenge or inspire you?

Is there a place in your life where God might be calling you to “write the check”?

6. Read Matthew 5:48.

Jesus said, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” This doesn’t mean moral perfection — it means wholeness, maturity, and a life that reflects the character of God.

In what ways do your current reactions reflect your Heavenly Father? In what ways do they not?

Outro

This week is a fresh opportunity to reflect the character of your Father. Reactions are powerful. They can cause harm — or they can open doors to healing, grace, and transformation. As you go about your week, ask:

“What would it look like to respond to this person the way God responded to me in Christ?”

Because reactions speak louder than actions.